CAPSULE SUMMARY
CT-973
Locust Inn
14478 S. Solomons Island Road
Solomons, Calvert County
Ca. 1886
Private

Locust Inn, one of the oldest and most well known inns on Solomons Island, is located at 14478 South Solomons Island Road in Solomons in Calvert County. Situated on the main road in Solomons Island, the Italianate-style building was constructed as a two-story dwelling circa 1886. It was enlarged to three stories in 1910 and converted to an inn by the Condiff family, who retained ownership until 1968. In 1971, Pearl English, the current owner, purchased the property and continues to operate it as the Locust Inn.

Rising three stories in height, the five-bay-wide building features a slightly projecting central tower and a full-width front porch. The wood-frame building has been reclad in aluminum siding and the shallow-pitched, front-gabled roof has asphalt shingles. An interior-end brick chimney rises from the southwest corner of the building. Two brick chimneys rise from the rear ells of the inn. There are two rear additions built in two distinct stages during the first half of the 20th century. The westernmost of these two ells rises two stories in height and features a gable roof, while the rear addition rises one story in height and is capped by a hipped roof with standing seam metal cladding. Additionally, there is a two-story shed roof addition on the rear of the main block in 1910. At the time of this substantial alteration, it appears possible that the façade of the building was embellished with Italianate-style detailing. Two non-historic sheds, a non-historic workshop and pump house, two piers, and an in-ground swimming pool further augment the property.

Inventory No. CT-973

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name) historic Locust Inn other 2. Location street and number 14478 S. Solomons Island Road not for publication city, town Solomons vicinity county Calvert 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners) name Pearl L. English street and number **PO Box 233** telephone 410/326-9817 city, town Solomons state MD zip code 20688-0233 4. Location of Legal Description courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M46A, P21 city, town Prince Frederic liber JLB folio 5. Primary Location of Additional Data Contributing Resource in National Register District Contributing Resource in Local Historic District Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register Recorded by HABS/HAER Historic Structure Report or Research Report Other 6. Classification Category Ownership **Current Function Resource Count** agriculture landscape Contributing Noncontributing district public commerce/trade recreation/culture buildings building(s) private defense religion sites structure both domestic social structures site éducation transportation objects object funerary work in progress Total 6 government unknown health care vacant/not in use **Number of Contributing Resources** industry other: previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description	 	Inventory No.	CT-973
Condition			
excellent	 deteriorated		
_X good	 ruins		
fair	 altered		

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Locust Inn is located at 14478 South Solomons Island Road in Solomons, Calvert County. Set along the main road on Solomons Island, the circa 1886 Italianate-style inn fronts close to the road with landscaping and two prominent locust trees at the front. Rising three stories in height, the five-bay-wide building features a slightly projecting central tower and a full-width front porch. The wood-frame building has been reclad in aluminum siding and the shallow-pitched, front-gabled roof has asphalt shingles. An interior-end brick chimney rises from the southwest corner of the building. Two brick chimneys rise from the rear ells of the inn. There are two rear additions built in two distinct stages during the first half of the 20th century. The westernmost of these two ells rises two stories in height and features a gable roof, while the rear addition rises one story in height and is capped by a hipped roof with standing seam metal cladding. Additionally, there is a two-story shed roof addition on the rear of the main block in 1910. At the time of this substantial alteration, it appears possible that the façade of the building was embellished with Italianate-style detailing. Two non-historic sheds, a non-historic workshop and pump house, two piers, and an in-ground swimming pool further augment the property.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade or west elevation of the Locust Inn is five bays in width with the central bay marked by the slightly projecting tower and main entry. The entry consists of a single-leaf wood door framed by a three-light transom and three-light sidelights. Flanking the entry at the first story are two 2/2-vinyl replacement windows. Square-edged surrounds frame all of the windows on the main block. These openings are symmetrically located at the second and third stories, also containing 2/2 vinyl replacement windows. The central bay features paired 2/2 vinyl replacement windows at the second and third stories, further delineating the slightly projecting tower. The tower is capped by a shallow gable roof. Extending across the façade of the inn is a one-story, full-width front porch supported by square wood posts. The porch, which has been rebuilt, features a shed roof and, in the 1970s, it was enclosed with screening.

The south elevation of the inn features three distinct building phases, including the main block, the two-story rear ell, and the one-story rear ell with the hipped roof. The main block of the inn is two bays deep with two symmetrically placed 2/2 vinyl replacement windows at the first, second, and third stories. The two-story rear ell is clad in aluminum siding and is pierced by irregular door and window openings. The first story of this addition features three 6/6 windows and a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door. On the second story of this ell are three 6/6 windows, although they are not symmetrically spaced above those on the first story. The south elevation of the one-story rear ell features four window openings and a single-leaf entry. There are both 2/2-vinyl replacement windows, like those found on the main block, and 6/6 windows.

The rear of east elevation is comprised of four separate building phases, including the main block, the two rear ells, and a one- and two-story rear shed roof addition. Much of the main block is obscured by the various additions, leaving only sections of the original building visible from this vantage point. Remaining visible on the east elevation of the main block are five window openings, all containing 2/2 vinyl replacement windows. There is one window visible on both the first and second stories and three at the third story. Likewise, the two-story rear ell retains only one visible opening from this elevation, containing a single 6/6 window. Dominating this elevation of the one-story rear ell is the centrally located exterior end chimney with stretcher-bond brick construction. A single 2/2-vinyl replacement window and a single-leaf door flank it. Additionally, this elevation features a one-and two-story addition with a shed roof. A single-leaf door pierces the one-story section of the addition and the two-story section features a 2/2-vinyl replacement window.

The four separate building phases are also evident from the north elevation. The north elevation of the main block has no window openings, unlike the south elevation, which is two bays deep. The shed-roof addition is pierced at the first story by a single 2/2-vinyl replacement window. On the two-story rear ell, there are three window openings, one at the first story and two at the second story. All of these openings contain 6/6 windows. The one-story rear ell is pierced by four openings, the westernmost of which

Inventory No. CT-973

contains a triple 6/6 window. Adjacent to this opening is three unevenly spaced 2/2-vinyl replacement windows.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Locust Inn reflects the Victorian era in stylistic embellishments on both the window and door surrounds and the stair. The inn features a center hall, single-pile plan, with two rear ells. A number of alterations have been made to the interior of the dwelling, resulting in the covering of the original floors with wall-to-wall carpeting, and the partial replacement and repair of plaster walls and ceilings with wallboard and simulated-wood paneling. These alterations primarily date to the 1970s.

The center hall features a straight, open-stringer stair with a large turned newel post and turned balusters. Five wood-paneled doors lead from the center hall, all of which are framed by reeded surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. The entries lead to the front porch, the two side rooms, a closet beneath the stair, and the rear addition. The entry that leads to the south room has been altered, with the removal of a door and the conversion of the double-leaf opening to a single-leaf opening.

The north room, which serves as a bedchamber for the inn, was accessed through a single-leaf entry with a reeded surround. The paneled door features a rim lock and a porcelain knob. There are two window openings in this room, with reeded surrounds and bull's eye corner blocks. A modest bathroom was installed in this room, including a stall shower, a toilet, and a sink. It is not partitioned by a wall, but rather by a drawn curtain on a track set within the ceiling.

The remaining rooms on the first story of the inn were not accessible at the time of the survey.

The second floor of the inn features four bedchambers that were accessible at the time of the survey, a bathroom, and a hall. Three of the bedchambers are located in the main block of the inn, while one is situated in the two-story rear addition. There is a single step down into this bedchamber. On the east wall of this room is a single-leaf wood-paneled door that leads to additional living quarters for the owner of the inn. These rooms were not accessible at the time of the survey. Like the first-floor rooms, those on the second floor feature reeded wood door and window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. Some of the door surrounds were replaced by square-edged wood surrounds. Alterations made in the 1970s are also visible at this floor, including wall-to-wall carpeting, and repaired and replaced plaster walls. The bathroom is located in the second story of the shed roof addition.

OUTBUILDINGS

To the rear of the Locust Inn are two non-historic sheds, a workshop, a non-historic pump house, an in-ground swimming pool, and two piers, all of which were constructed after 1971, when the current owner purchased the property. The outbuildings, all constructed of particleboard, feature gable roofs and concrete block foundations. The two wood-frame piers extend to the northeast of the house, into the bay at the rear of the property. The southernmost pier is 110 feet long with ten boat slips and the other pier is forty feet long. A concrete deck and metal fencing surround the in-ground pool.

8. Signiti	cance		Inventory No. CT-9/3				
Period	Areas of Signific	cance Check and just	ify below				
1600-1699 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899 _X 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology architecture art X commerce communicati community p conservation	lanning exploration/	 health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime industry military 	performing arts philospohy politics/government religion science X social history transportation other:			
Specific dat	es 1886;	1910	Architect/Builder [Jnknown			
Constructio	n dates c1886;	c1971					
Evaluation fo	or:						
National Register		Mar	yland Register	X not evaluated			

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Locust Inn, one of the oldest and most well known inns on Solomons Island, is located at 14478 South Solomons Island Road in Solomons in Calvert County. Situated on the main road in Solomons Island, the Italianate-style building was constructed as a two-story dwelling circa 1886. It was enlarged to three stories in 1910 and converted to an inn by the Condiff family, who retained ownership until 1968. In 1971, Pearl English, the current owner, purchased the property and continues to operate it as the Locust Inn.

HISTORY OF INNS IN CALVERT COUNTY

Cimmificance

A number of historic inns and boarding houses were constructed in the resort towns of Calvert County, particularly in such towns as Chesapeake Beach and, more recently, Solomons Island. Associated with entertaining visitors were nearby restaurants, pavilions and piers, arcades and carousels, theatres and inns.

As opposed to Chesapeake Beach, Solomons Island remained primarily a fishing community until the seaside tourism industry took off during the second half of the 20th century. Calvert County residents would go to Solomons Island to spend their days fishing, while evenings could be spent at the Evans Dancing Pavilion, built in 1919, which later featured a water slide off the roof. (1) Visitors to Solomons could stay in one of a number of inns, the grandest of which was Rekar's Hotel, built in 1922, a large, three-story wood-frame structure with a wide two-story wrap-around porch to catch the sea breezes, or the Hotel Northampton, built in 1902 and more or less a Victorian boarding house. (2) Two of the oldest extant and most well-known inns on Solomons Island are the Locust Inn and Bowens Inn (CT-988).

HISTORY OF THE LOCUST INN

The Locust Inn was constructed shortly after the purchase of the property by Catherine A. Condiff in 1886. Catherine Condiff, the wife of George W. Condiff, purchased Lot 3 in the village of Solomons for \$400 on May 24, 1886. Prior to her purchase of the unimproved lot, the parcel of land was owned by Robert T. and Nettie Allison, who had acquired the property in 1885. During the ownership of the property by the Condiff family, the two-story single-family dwelling was enlarged to three stories. According to the Calvert Journal in May 7, 1910, "Mr. George Condiff, Sr. is putting an addition to his home, the work being done by Mr. W.T. Carey."(3) The Calvert Gazette elaborated on May 14, 1910, "Mr. George Condiff is rebuilding his house and when completed will be three stories and contain twelve rooms. Mrs. Condiff is preparing to take summer boarders at which she has been successful for many summers." (4) In 1911, rates for the Locust Inn were recorded at six dollars per week and the inn could accommodate up to twenty guests. (5) Early newspaper accounts state the inn was know as "The Locust," but changed by 1914 to "Locust Inn." The Italianate-style inn was named for the large black locust trees that used to be located in front of the building. Infected by disease, these black locusts were replaced in the 1980s by honey locust trees, which stand in the same location. In June 1920, the inn was

Inventory No CT-973

Name	Locust In	n	
Continu	ation Shee	et	
Number	8	Page	1

modernized, "being improved by installation of water works, gasoline engine and force pump system." (6)

In the 1890s, shortly after the Locust Inn was constructed, Solomons was a bustling town at the southernmost tip of Calvert County. Named for Isaac Solomon who established a cannery by 1868, Solomons received official recognition as a community when a post office was opened in 1870. Benefiting from its deep-water location where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay, Solomons grew into one of Calvert County's most important commercial centers. According to a report in the Calvert Gazette on November 12, 1892, "There are about one hundred houses upon the island, including some stores which do an active business in the oyster season, and three shipyards...It is chiefly occupied by oystermen and fishermen." (7)

Solomons thrived as a commercial center through the first decades of the 20th century. During the 1920s, the community was in an economic decline due to decreased oyster and fish harvests and the resulting decrease in shipbuilding. Despite the economic decline, which was further impacted by the Great Depression, the community began to attract visitors, becoming a resort area with summer boarding houses and charter fishing vessels. It was during this time that the Locust Inn began to thrive, attracting visitors from outside of the Solomons community.

Following George and Catherine Condiff's deaths, the property was transferred to William H. Condiff. He owned the Locust Inn until his death in 1960, when the property was conveyed to his wife Marie Condiff. Her children, Margaret and George Condiff, helped operate the inn until Margaret's death in 1967, at which time her portion of the property was passed to George Condiff. Together with his wife, Clara, and his mother, Marie, George Condiff sold the Locust Inn in 1968 to James Leslie and Edith Langley. James Leslie Langley served for a number of years as the postmaster in Solomons and operated the Fisherman's Inn, and restaurant that stood adjacent to the Locust Inn until it was destroyed by fire in the last quarter of the 20th century. In 1971, Pearl English, the current owner of the property, purchased the Locust Inn. At that time, rooms cost eight dollars per night. English continues to operate the inn, renting out eight rooms on both a nightly and a weekly basis.

CHAIN OF TITLE

April 9, 1879:, , Baltimore Permanent Building and Land Society to John S. Farren and Thomas Moore
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber SS 5 Folio 387

October 12, 1883: John S. and Catharine J. Farren and Thomas and Margaret Moore to Elias C. Cecil Land Records of Calvert County
Liber SS 6 Folio 223

February 28, 1885: Elias C. Cecil to Robert T. Allison Land Records of Calvert County Liber SS 6 Folio 473

May 24, 1886: , Robert T. and Nettie Allison to Catherine A. Condiff Land Records of Calvert County
Liber SS 7 Folio 268

April 27, 1964: William H. Condiff, heir of Catherine A. Condiff, to Marie Condiff Will Records of Calvert County
Liber GLH 2 Folio 489

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Name Locust Inn
Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 2

August 25, 1967:, Margaret Condiff to George W. Condiff Will Records of Calvert County
Liber GLH 3 Folio 300

April 8, 1968:, George W. and Clara B. Condiff and Marie Condiff to James Leslie Langley and Edith Langley Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 98 Folio 638

June 18, 1968: James Leslie Langley and Edith Langley to Jean Crawford Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 101 Folio 79

June 18, 1968: Jean Crawford to James Leslie Langley, Edith Langley, James Edward Langley, and Lucille Lenora Langley Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 101 Folio 81

July 19, 1971:, James Leslie Langley and Edith Langley and James Edward Langley, and Lucille Lenora Langley to Pearl L. English
Land Records of Calvert County

Liber JLB 132 Folio 389

ENDNOTES

- 1. Richard J. Dodds, editor, Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, (Solomons, MD: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995).
- 2. Dodds.
- 3. Calvert Journal, May 7, 1910.
- 4. Calvert Gazette, May 14, 1910.
- 5. Dodds.
- 6. Calvert Journal, June 26, 1920.
- 7. Dodds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-973

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.28 Acres

Acreage of historical setting 0.

0.28 Acres

Quadrangle name

Solomons Island

Quadrangle scale

1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Locust Inn has been associated with Parcel 21, as denoted on Tax Map 46A, since its construction circa 1886.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historians		
organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.	dat	8/26/02
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, N.W.	telephone	202/393-1199
city or town	Washington	stat DC	zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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DHCD/DHCP

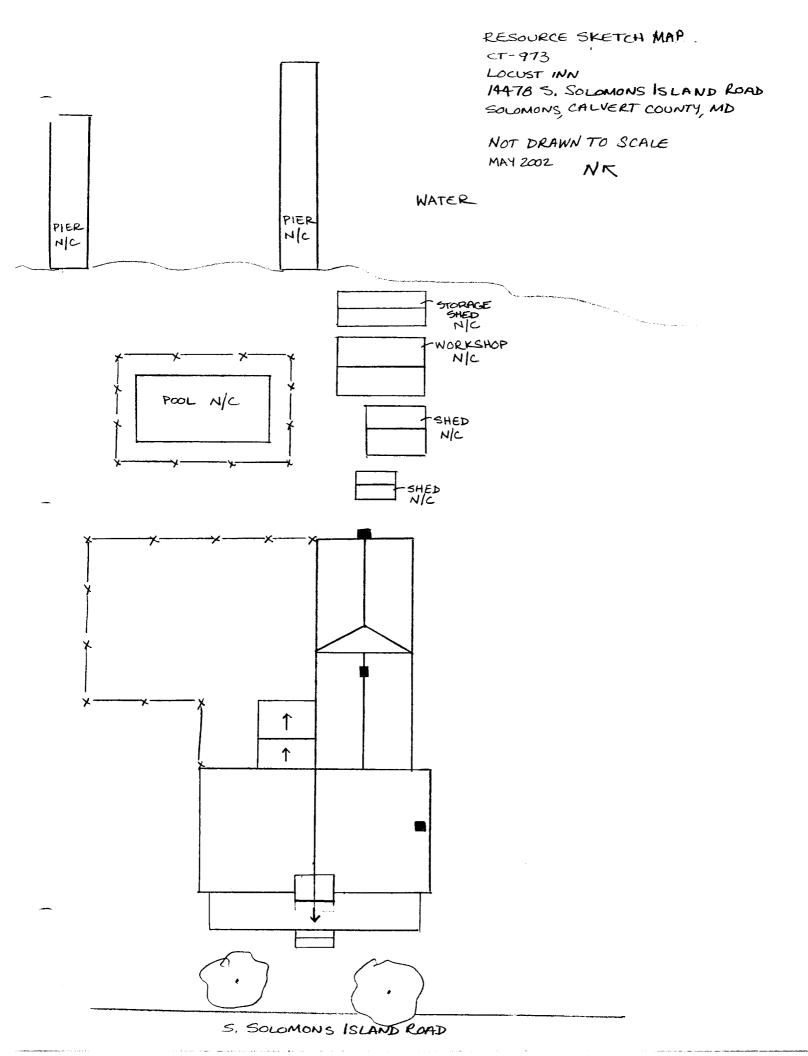
100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032

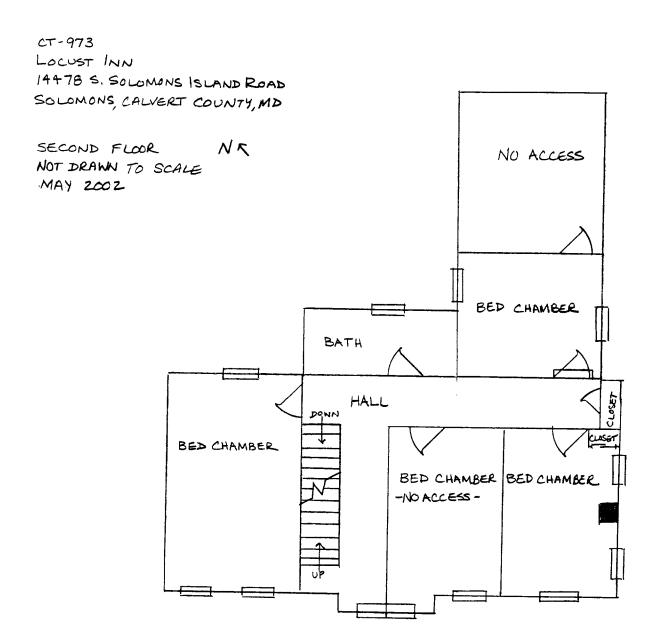
410-514-7600

Inventory No. CT-973

Name	Locust Inn	
Continua	ation Sheet	
Number	9_ Page1	

Dodds, Richard J., editor. Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, (Solomons, MD: Calvert Marine Musuem, 1995).

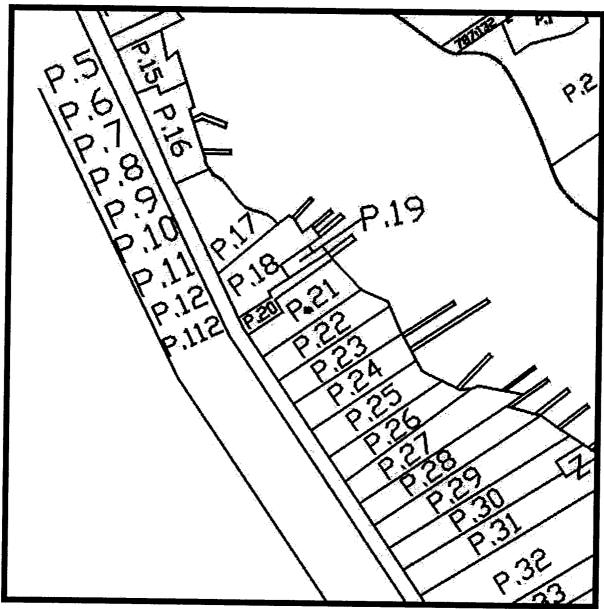




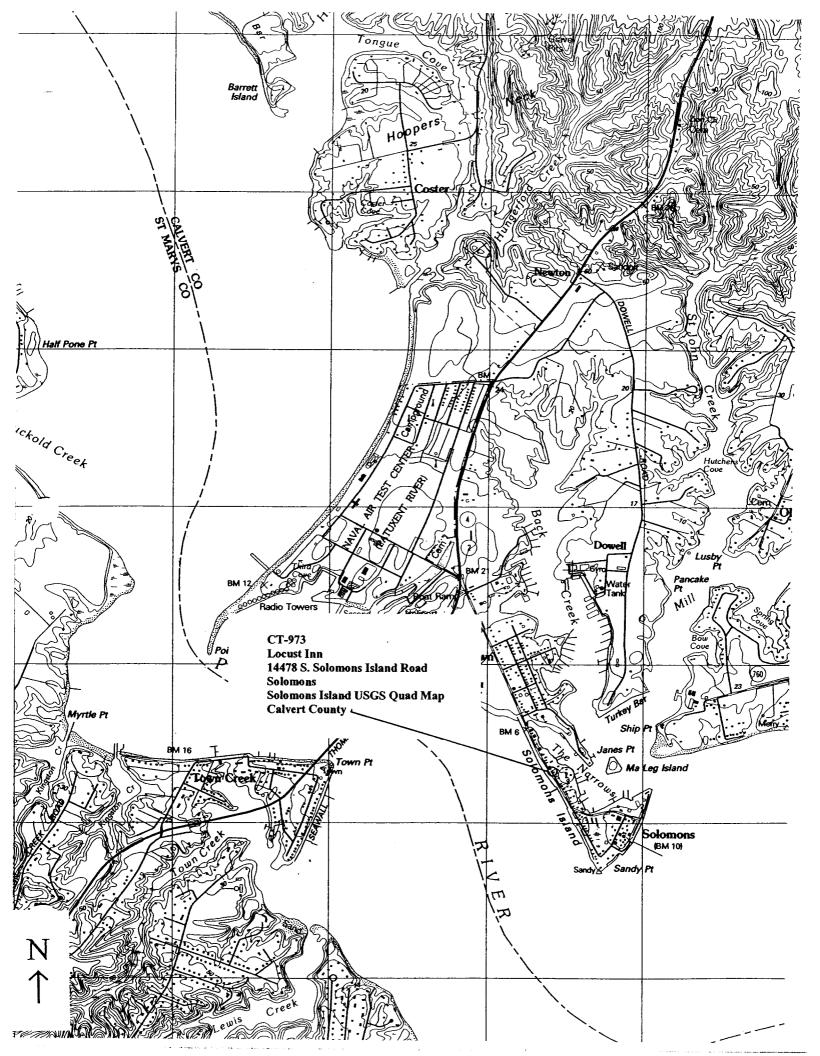


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District - 01 Account Number - 007211



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CT-973 Locustinn 14478 S. Solomons Island Road Calvert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO West Corner, Looking East 1 OF 7



CT-973 Locust Inn 14478 S. Solomons Island Road Calvert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO South Corner Looking North 2 OF 7



CT-973 Locust Inn 14478 S. Solomons Island Road Calvert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO

NE Elevation, Looking SW

3 OF 7



CT-973 Locust Inn 14478 S. Solomons Island Road Calvert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO NE Elevation, Looking South



CT-973 Locust Inn 14478 S. Solomons Island Road Cavert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO Interior, 1st Floor, Hall, Looking South 5 OF 7



17-973 Locust Inn 14478 S. Solomons Island Road Calvert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO Interior, 1st Floor, Hall, Looking North



CT-973 Locust Inn 14478 S, Solomons Island Road Calvert County, MD EHT Traceries June 2002 Maryland SHPO Interior, ZND Floor, Hall, Looking SE 7 OF 7

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE	yes	no

Magi No.

1. Nam	le (indica	te prefe	rred name)		
historic					
and/or common	Locust In	n			
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	Solomons	Island	Road South (MD 2	2)	not for publication
city, town	Solomons		vicinity of	congressional district	
state Mary	land		county	Calvert	
3. Clas	sificatio	n			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisiti in process being consid not applic	ion A	tatus X_ occupied _ unoccupied _ work in progress ccessible X_ yes: restricted _ yes: unrestricted _ no	Present Use agricultureX commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	perty	(give names an	nd mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Pearl Engl	lish			
street & number	P.O. Box 2	254		telephone no	.:
city, town	Solomons		state	and zip code MD 2	20688
5. Loca	ation of L	.egal	Description	n	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Calver	t County Courtho	use	liber
street & number		Main S	treet (MD 765)		folio
city, town		Prince	Frederick	state	Maryland
6. Repi	esentati	on in	Existing	Historical Surve	eys
title					
date				federal state	county local
pository for su	rvey records		•		
city, town				state	

7. Description

Survey No. CT-973

excellent deteriorated	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check one X original site moved date of m	nove
------------------------	---------------------------------	---	------

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This three-story five-bay framed and weatherboarded structure faces west onto Solomons Island Road. It is unusual in that the ridgeline of the gable roof runs perpendicular to the facade of the structure. The central bay of the structure is advanced, and the main entrance is sidelighted and transomed. The original sash have a two-over-two double-hung pattern. The end walls are two bays wide and there are one-and two-story rear ells. The original porch was a hipped-roof structure supported on turned posts and decorated with sawn pierced wooden brackets. This turn-of-the-century structure has recently been aluminum sided. The porch has been screened in.

<u>8. S</u>	ign	ificance	Survey No. CT-973		
Period	1499 1599 1699 1799 1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture x architecture art commerce communications		music it philosophy	religion cup religion cup science cup sculpture cup social/ humanitarian cup theater cup transportation cup other (specify)
Specific	dates		Builder/Architect		
check:	ar Appli	cable Criteria:A nd/or cable Exception:A of Significance:	A _B _C _D		
Prepare support	both	a summary paragraph o			of history and

The Locust Inn was established as a rooming and boarding house in 1925 by George Condiff and his sister Margaret. It is still operating today. The two locust trees for which it was named are still standing in the front yard.

From Solomons by Foot, Bicycle, or Boat.

8 Significance

10. Ge	ographical	Data					
Quadrangle name	nated property e Solomons Island, do NOT complete	, MD	ces	Qu	ıadrangle	scale 1:24000	
A Zone Eastir			B Zon	e Easting	الب	Northing	
C			D		 		
Verbal bounda	ry description and jus	stification					
List all states a	and counties for prop	erties overlap	ping state o	r county bour	idaries		
state		code	county			code	
state		code	county			code	
11. For	m Prepare	d By					-
name/title	Camille Wells						***
organization	MHT/Calvert Dept.	. of Plannin	g	date	9/30/8	86	
street & number	Courthouse Annex	, Main Stree	t	telephone	(301)	535-2348	
city or town	Prince Frederick			state	Maryla	and 20678	

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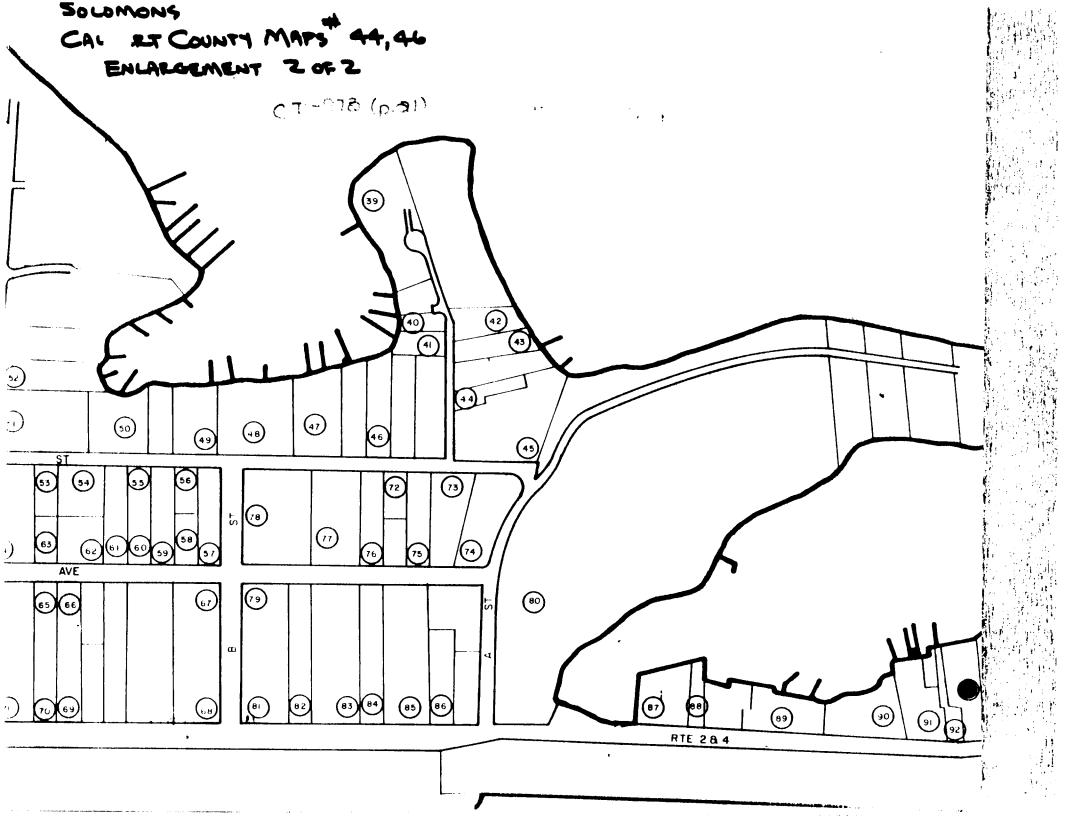
Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438





Ct-973 Locust Inn Solomons Island Road Solomons

Camille Wells 9/86 view from the west